

The **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 3 - Number 2

NOVEMBER, 1954

GIVE THANKS BY GIVING



THE MIDWAY FAITH

By Richard B. Drake

The communions we represent here today came to us from far in the American past. They represent at least three distinct streams of religious development:

First, the **Congregational**, the so-called Pilgrim Faith. Born of the Reformation in England, it bore its principal fruit in the Puritan fathers of New England who established their faith for all New England save Rhode Island. Later it was this yankee Pilgrim piety which established the first home mission society in the United States, the first foreign mission society, the first youth group in the country, and many other important firsts.

The second is the **Christian**, a faith itself made of a loose union of three sympathetic strains together making up perhaps the first native born Protestant denomination in the United States. These three groups which together formed the old "Christian Connection" were: 1) the O'Kelley movement in Virginia, a movement protesting against the "tyranny" of Methodist Bishop Asbury; 2) the revivalistic movement led by Abner Jones and Elias Smith which separated itself from the New England Baptists because of the belief that the church should be strictly scriptural; and 3) the dramatic frontier movement led by Barton W. Stone in Kentucky.

The last is the Congregational Methodist movement begun here in middle Georgia in the 1850's. This Fredonia Church, is today the principle tangible fruit of this rather small though fascinating movement. This group, like the O'Kelleyites in Virginia, was a Congregational protest against what some felt to be Methodist dictation.

In searching for a keynote to this, the 1954 Conference of Congregational Christian Churches of Georgia and South Carolina, I hope you will forgive me if I delve into the Congregational heritage. Though in our Southland this portion of our movement has not been strong, perhaps the most dramatic story we can find in our area is a Congregational one. This is the oft-told story of Midway Congregational Church down in Liberty County.

It was over 200 years ago that the first families of this remarkable group arrived in Liberty County. They were slave owners - New England and Congregationalists who had lived in the South for some two generations, and in 1752 moved into the raw, frontier colony of Georgia, a colony only recently placed under the Crown.

As you remember, Georgia was begun by a group of proprietors who had attempted to build a paternalistic, military colony to be peopled by the industrious but unfortunate people of Europe. But opportunity was strictly limited in the colony, for large areas of land could not be acquired. Slaves could not be owned. Lacking opportunity in Georgia, the best settlers moved away. The Proprietors, then, failed in their purposes, and turned over to the Crown a colony that had developed no leadership of its own.

The Midway group provided this leadership—and did so dramatically. When 25 years after the arrival of the first of their number the American Revolution came, it was this group which gave the leaders to the Patriot cause. While Savannah and Augusta were hotbeds of Toryism, this great rural church stood forth as the champion of American independence.

And what leadership this Midway group provided for Georgia. Listen to the record: It gave 4 governors of the State of Georgia, 2 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 6 Georgia counties are named for her—one for herself and 5 for her sons, 83 ministers of the Gospel, 10 professors in institutions of higher learning, 6 presidents of colleges, 6 foreign missionaries, one U. S. Minister abroad, and many, many others.

Furthermore, Midway and her sons were responsible for: the first school of any prominence in the State of Georgia, the first leaders in temperance reform in Georgia, the first native born Presbyterian minister in Georgia, the first Methodist traveling minister in the Southern Church, the first Baptist foreign missionary from the South, the first Presbyterian foreign missionaries from the area south and west of the Carolinas, the first Southern missionary to sacrifice his life on foreign soil, the first Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Imperial Court of China. Considering this record I think, therefore, that it is highly proper to keynote this conference with an appeal to the "Midway Faith".

Midway did not build Congregationalism in the South. Her sons were sent into the ministry of other denominations, and at the time of the Civil War we had only two Congregational Churches in the South - Midway, and old Circular Church in Charleston, an even older church than Midway.

Perhaps this lack of strength of Congregationalism is one of the penalties of freedom, especially when we have freedom without the needed fellowship which binds our communion together.

Yet I think in the "Spirit of Midway"—in the "Midway Faith" we can find inspiration today. Perhaps we can regain something of that undisputed greatness which was developed down there in Liberty County.

What might some of Midway's secrets be? Let me suggest that, through her faith in God and the sustaining voice of the Holy Spirit: 1) She had confidence in herself, and 2) here was a Southern faith. She saw the needs of her section in her day, and ministered to them. For the South and for Georgia she provided Christianity without denominationalism, greatness without narrow pride.

Too often we as Congregationalists look upon ourselves as custodians of the "Pilgrim Faith": We found "Pilgrim Chapels", we send our young people to "Pilgrim Fellowship". We are proud of the bits of New England we have sprinkled across the continent—in the Great Plains, on the slopes

(Please turn to page 12)

SHARE OUR SURPLUS

November is a traditional time of giving—but should not the harvest festival be more than a time of thanksgiving? Is it not a natural time to share with others the very things for which we now offer our thanks?

We in America have enough food to eat. Indeed, we have more than enough and huge amounts of food—more than six billion dollars' worth—are stored away by our government as "surplus commodities".

These stored surplus goods, if they were to be loaded on 50-ton box cars, would require a train which would stretch west from London across the Atlantic, through the United States and over the Pacific 500 miles west of Tokyo.

People in Asia, Africa and parts of Europe need this food. A mother or father or child in the Far East gets about two-sevenths of an ounce of animal protein a day. A mother or father or child in the United States gets seven times that much.

As a result of recent legislation, United States surplus commodities are now being released to volunteer relief agencies, including Church World Service. This interdenominational Protestant agency needs the funds to distribute the surpluses now made available. Church World Service calls this the "Share Our Surplus" program. The money is needed to help get this surplus food to the people who need it.

Money given for this program provides almost unbelievable amounts of food. Ten cents gives a cup of milk daily to a hungry child for three months. \$1 delivers 400 loaves of bread; \$2 will provide 1,600 protein-deficient persons with a ration of cheese; \$5 (and what church school cannot give \$5?) will supply vital fats for 100 persons for twelve days; \$50 delivers 100,000 cups of milk; \$500 delivers the butter for 850,000 slices of bread.

To help church school children visualize this giving-project, a world map poster with stickers to be applied as money gifts are given, is available (free) from the Missions Council, Room 102, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

Why not plan to have your church school share in this special "Thanksgiving Project"? Send money to your Southwest Convention office marked "Share Our Surplus".

- Armstrong Hunter, Advance

East Alabama Association

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the East Alabama Association, held Oct. 6-7 at Pleasant Grove Church of Lafayette; Moderator, Rev. A. Goff Bedford; Vice Moderator, W. C. Edge; Secretary, Paul H. Beaird; Treasurer, Mrs. Velma French.

Committee Chairmen are: Ministry and Churches, Rev. John Dollar; Evangelism and Worship, Rev. David Clark; Religious Education and Youth, Rev. E. S. Fetner; Missions and Stewardship, Rev. Lynwood Hubbard.

The Executive Committee of the East Association consists of Rev. Wallace Roberts, Rev. Joe A. French, James Dollar and the Moderator.

New General Secretary

The Rev. Howard E. Spragg has been elected a general secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches in charge of administration, according to an announcement made recently by Dr. Truman B. Douglass, executive vice-president of the Board.

Mr. Spragg will help direct a program which serves 6,000 churches, cooperates with about 75 church-related colleges and centers of university student work and supports medical, educational, social service and religious activities in every part of the United States and its possessions.

Since 1952, Mr. Spragg has served as an associate administrator in the American Missionary Association division of the board where he was responsible for secondary schools and community centers as well as the program in Puerto Rico. From 1949 to 1952, Mr. Spragg served as general director of Congregational Christian work in Puerto Rico where he directed the work of Ryder Hospital, the Yuquiyu Rural Life Community Center, 23 organized churches and 40 rural chapels. He also taught in the Protestant interdenominational theological seminary there.

In announcing Mr. Spragg's election, Dr. Douglass said: "The strengthening of the over-all administrative leadership of our work is a recognition that the influence of the church on modern society is not achieved by any single and distinctively 'religious' type of work but by a distinctive accent and spirit imparted to a wide variety of constructive activities, carried on for the service of persons of all ages and for the strengthening of fundamental community relationships."

Mr. Spragg is a native of Malden, Mass., and at one time worked as student assistant in the First Congregational Church there. He was graduated summa cum laude from Tufts College in 1938, where he was on the football team and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year. Mr. Spragg completed his theological education at the Chicago Theological Seminary and was ordained in the Congregational Christian ministry and was minister of our South Church, Chicago, one of the first interracial churches.

Mr. Spragg is married to Dr. Jane Spragg, a practicing physician who served on the staff of Ryder Hospital in Puerto Rico. The Spraggs have four children and live in Westfield, N. J.

(Reprinted from ADVANCE)

North Alabama Association

North Association met at Liberty Church, Town Creek, Ala., Oct. 2-3. Rev. A. L. Hardin was elected Moderator; Rev. Richard Waugh, Assistant Moderator and representatives on Southeast Convention Board of Directors; and Mrs. Ferris Thomas, Scribe.

Committee chairmen are: Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, Dr. Guy Colbert; Christian Education, Rev. Annie R. Campbell.

Dr. Colbert was elected Pastor-at-large of North Association. Jack McGlawn, Homer Barnes, and Ferris Thomas were taken "under the care of the association" looking toward licensure.

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THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

These suggestions for the family Christmas should be used about the first week in December to avoid the before Christmas rush.

Invite all families of the church to a fellowship meeting either on a Sunday afternoon or a night. Before they arrive, a special committee (Christian Education Committee if your church has one) is appointed to fix a box for each family—a shoe box will do. In the box put all sorts of things that may be used to trim the Christmas tree, which has been set up in another room or in a corner of the room being used. This could be done by one family.

Suggestions for filling the boxes: pine cones, silver paint, construction paper of red and green, popcorn (to pop and string), tinfoil, and any other things that are simple and may be used to trim the tree.

As each family arrives they are given a box and in a group may make ornaments to trim the tree from the materials in the box. At a given time they all go together and trim the tree.

A family supper or refreshments may be served after the tree-trimming, and the tree is to be used when needed.

Another idea is to ask each family to decorate a small Christmas tree at home to be brought to the church at a given time. Tree suggestions are: cookie tree, gum tree, doll tree, or the family may think of a special kind they would like to decorate. When the families bring the trees to the church, the trees are judged for the prettiest, the most useful, and the most unusual. Then a fellowship supper may be served. A good way to use these trees is in Sunday School rooms, by the families for their own homes, or they may be given to the sick, shut-ins or older persons who do not ordinarily have a tree.

Many other suggestions may be found in The Christmas Family Book, Pilgrim Press.

- Jettie Logan

Layman's Responsibility

All male members of the Congregational Christian Churches are laymen of the churches. We are the operating force of the church but a force that is operating at far less than 50% of capacity. If it were not for the women's activities, most churches would have closed long ago.

The Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches has as its chief aim arousing the interest of the laymen, awakening them to their responsibilities, and, through proper organization, enabling them to fulfill those responsibilities—thereby creating a better church, a better community, and enriching their own lives through serving together.

If the laymen of your church are not organized, or are not as active as they should be, it is time for them to consider a statement by Dr. Albert Schweitzer. When asked what the ordinary man could do in his daily life to help in some way cure the ills that beset the world, he stated in part: "It's not enough merely to exist. It's not enough to say, 'I'm earning enough to live and to support my family. I do my work well. I'm a good father. I'm a good husband.' That's all very well. But you must do something more. Seek always to do some good, somewhere. Every man has to seek in his own way to make his own self more noble and to realize his own true worth."

"You must give some time to your fellow man. Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too."

If you need help in organizing the laymen of your church, your Georgia-South Carolina Conference layman-at-large will be most happy to assist in every way possible. He is W. Frank Gordon, 958 Madeira Ave., N. E., Atlanta; or he can be reached through the Convention office.

Message To Georgia Women

Let's strive first of all to enrich our spiritual lives so that God will be pleased and our fellowship may know that we are His children. Let's work in unity in our individual churches and then in the state. With these unified efforts, we will be a part of a greater Fellowship, Our Christian World Mission.

I would like to encourage all the women to remember our Friendly Service Projects and our Woman's Gift. These are two ways we have of sharing our blessings with others.

We hope to get a copy of the proposed Constitution to each society. Study it and make your recommendations for corrections and amendments. Through your cooperation we will have a constitution with a copy in every society in Georgia and South Carolina.

I covet the prayers of every woman in every group that I can be the president you would have me be. With women like you to work with, we will "do things" this year.

- Mrs. H. Y. Sears, President
Georgia - South Carolina Women's Fellowship

- SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE -

Yes, this is the "Superintendent's Page", but it's being written this month by the Superintendent's wife: I didn't usurp his page—I was invited to "take over". This message is particularly for ministers' wives—but anyone can "listen in".

It has been said, and correctly so, that a good minister must be a public speaker (planned as well as impromptu); a scholar; a religious education director; a business administrator; a counselor; a social worker; an advertising executive; a fund raiser; a chaplain; and a good will ambassador. A wife of any one of these men would have a full-time job, but as a minister is a composite of all these careers, so the wife has the combined joys and privileges (as well as the combined "headaches") of all of them. In spite of the hectic schedule followed by ministers and their wives, the home life must be one of complete happiness and serenity—not only for the sake of the individuals concerned but for the example that must be set for the entire community.

This sounds like an impossible task—it isn't impossible but it's mighty difficult, and one must have a "positive belief" and a spiritually rich life equal to the many demands of such tasks. I ran across the following "Credo for Ministers' Wives", and since I believe all of us would find it helpful I would like to share it with you.

I BELIEVE in the living God who has created the universe—and me; and in His Son, Jesus Christ, who has revealed to me God as my father, and every man as my brother.

I BELIEVE in the continuing living Presence of God whose power I can call upon at any time, in any place.

I BELIEVE that I am a soul, and have a body; that my body should be a temple for the spirit; I will, therefore, work and rest and play, and guide my family into creative living.

I BELIEVE that if I am in tune with the spirit of God, my emotional life will be balanced and radiant; that there will be in me no self-pity, no jealousy, no envy.

I BELIEVE that loyalty to my husband and his work should be dominant, and that through God's guidance I shall have all necessary resources for my family's well-being.

I BELIEVE that with God's help I shall be able to detect beauty and goodness in the difficult personalities with whom I must work in the parish and community.

I BELIEVE that, by meditation, I shall come to KNOW MYSELF; to understand my liabilities and assets; to respect myself, and in so doing to love my neighbors as myself.

I BELIEVE that nothing is impossible if my faith is even "as small as a mustard seed"; that I can be the kind of understanding wife, wise mother, and unifying center in a divided community that my position in a parsonage makes possible.

I BELIEVE that love casts out all fear, worry, and anxiety; that love can replace insecurity with confidence and trust.

I BELIEVE that God has put me in this place that through an honest acceptance of myself and a commitment to His Will I may become a woman of mature mind and spirit, and a source of strength to my husband, to my children and to the church.

— Isabel Butterfield

P. S. — I've always said men talk more than women—Erston always uses much more space than this!

School For Ministers

The second semester of the Southwest Convention's School for Ministers will begin Nov. 29 and end Dec. 3. Full information about this school has gone out to all ministers and church clerks of the Convention.

Dr. Jas. A. Fraser will teach a course on the New Testament, and Rev. Carl Dollar will teach a course The Minister and His Church. Rev. Carolyn Welch will teach an alternate course centered around the books in the Spring list of The Associates in Reading.

Superintendent Butterfield will address the entire group on Monday evening, and lead the discussion following. He will also lead a discussion period each evening of the course. There will be a sermon each evening by an outstanding guest preacher.

This School for Ministers will be an occasion of much value. Churches are urged to grant their pastors the time needed to attend for the full week, and all ministers are urged to attend. Churches are also urged to underwrite the cost of rooms, meals and registration, and if possible, travel, for their pastors, so that they may attend, and then return to their churches with renewed enthusiasm and inspiration for their tasks.

The cost of rooms, meals and registration will be the same as before - \$10. Information from those ministers wanting rooms must reach the Dean of Southern Union College, Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, by Nov. 22. There will be some free scholarships available, and application for those must reach the Dean by Nov. 22 also.

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind, and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.



Our Honored Guest . . .

This was the first year that all Association and Conference meetings were held within a two-week period so that some outstanding guest speaker could attend all sessions. The plan was very successful, and Dr. Sidney M. Berry did much to make it so.

Wherever he went around the Convention, it was "love at first sight". This being Dr. Berry's first visit to the South, he was greatly pleased with our traditional southern hospitality and we all were much impressed with his charming manner and radiant personality.

Dr. Berry, Minister and Secretary of the International Congregational Christian Council, is a truly great churchman. We will long remember his words of wisdom and hope he will return for another visit soon. In the meantime, we pray that God will continue to bless him in his great work among the Congregational Christian Churches of the world.



"Love at First Sight"

Church Builders' Club

The annual meeting of the Church Builders' Club was held Oct. 31 in the Langdale Church, Langdale, Ala., Rev. A. Goff Bedford, pastor.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Rev. Henry C. Weaver, Chipley, Ga.; Vice President, Mrs. Sam Thomason, Atlanta, Ga.; Trustees - A. B. Snell, Nashville, Tenn.; Odell Yancey, Langdale; and W. J. Abel, Jr., Richland, Ga.

Promotion Chairmen and co-chairmen were also elected: East Association, Rev. Goff Bedford and James Dollar; Central Association, Rev. Herbert Long and Mrs. Jettie Logan; North Association, Rev. Guy Colbert and Preston Ingram; South Association, Rev. Raymond Berry and James Bell; South Georgia, Rev. W. C. Carpenter and Lester Shaw; North Georgia, Rev. Scott Morris and Pete McGuire; Kentucky-Tennessee, Rev. Arnold Slater and A. B. Snell.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. W. C. Carpenter, announced that to date there are 482 members enrolled and a total of \$2,100, received in pledges.

The Awards Committee recommended that each church, association or conference having met the requirements of the Club be given a charter appropriately engraved and properly signed by the President of the Club. The recommendation was approved. Mrs. M. V. Robertson was chairman, with Miss Ellen Hull and Miss Shirly Walker.

The Insignia Committee recommended a pin for all club members to wear with an emblem to be designed and suggested either a bar or colored stones to be added denoting either number of pledges made, members enlisted or years of membership. It was voted to make this a continuing committee to work out details on the emblem. Walter Crutchfield is chairman, with Mrs. J. M. Smith and D. S. Hogg.

The reports of the organizational committee and the promotion committee were combined to elect the area chairmen who will promote CBC in the local church, association and conference.

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Elected at the annual Conference meeting held at Fredonia Church, Barnesville, Oct. 12-13, the following officers will hold office for one year: President, Mrs. H. Y. Sears, Vice President, Mrs. Matthew B. Porter; Secretary, Mrs. Grace Puckett; Treasurer, Mrs. Martha Sullivan; and Mrs. W. F. Wynn will take the responsibility of Friendly Service project.

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Officers elected at the annual meeting held at Fredonia Church, Barnesville, Oct. 12-13 were: Moderator, Dr. Thos. Isbell; Scribe, Rev. W. C. Carpenter. Richard Drake was elected as the representative to the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention.

*Very often a little actual experience
wipes out a great many theories.*



Left to right: Mrs. Gladys Watson, Mrs. Gager, Mrs. Fralic, Rev. Hugh Lasseter, Mrs. Logan, Rev. Dollar, Rev. French, Rev. Rust, Rev. Goff Bedford, Rev. Raymond Berry, Rev. Herbert Long, Mrs. Berry, Rev. Lynwood Hubbard, Rev. Annie Campbell.

Lanett Planning Conference

The planning conference held at the Lanett Church Oct. 18 and 19 with Rev. Henry R. Rust, national secretary of youth work, as speaker and discussion leader, was most successful. There were 36 in attendance, and much was accomplished.

Originally planned for the Christian Education and Youth Work Committee of the Southeast Convention, the conference was expanded to include adult advisors of PF work, officers of the PF, and officers and adult advisors and Christian Education chairmen of the conferences and associations.

Tentative plans were made for a Convention-wide young people's conference, under the direction of a committee composed of Millard Fuller, Convention PF president; Miss Inias Dillard; Rev. Annie Campbell, Convention Chairman of Youth Work; and Supt. Butterfield. Suggested date for this conference is June 6-7.

Also, the Convention young people plan to meet alone to plan a series of area rallies and week-end conferences before the Convention meeting.

A great need was felt for training sessions for the adults who work with young people. Accordingly, tentative plans are underway for a series of leadership training programs in the local churches. It is hoped to obtain both Miss Mildred Widbur and James Price (national leaders in Christian Education and Youth Work) for these area meetings. In that way a combination meeting could be held for training both young people and adults in these area institutes. Suggested dates for these meetings is February and March.

Another need was felt for a meeting of the Christian Education Committee of the Convention with the deans of the summer conferences early in 1955 to plan the coordination of curriculum. A standard course would be set up to be offered at each conference—a course that would train young people for work in the churches.

At the October meeting of the Board of Directors, Mrs. M. B. Porter, Jr., of Atlanta, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dr. D. W. Shepherd on the Convention Committee.

Another suggestion for leadership training was that during the first week of June at the Kentucky-Tennessee Summer Conference we try to get one national leader and use local people such as Dr. Paul Reynolds and Mrs. Raymond Berry, and set up an intensive training course for leaders of youth for the youth advisors of the local churches, or ministers where they serve in this capacity.

Definite plans on these suggestions will be announced later.

It is good to battle, to suffer, to be thrown overboard and left to save ourselves. What we lose in comfort we gain in energy, and energy is the most precious of man's weapons.

Church News . . .

A trip to Lookout Mountain was enjoyed by members of the Garden City Pilgrim Fellowship and Sunday School classes in October. Among those who went were: Glenda Washburn, Jean Vincent, Geraldine Kretzschmar, Betty Fay Kretzschmar, Harold Kretzschmar, Diane Kretzschmar, Peggy Seibert, Ray Kretzschmar, and Wayne Kretzschmar. They were taken in cars driven by Marvin Williams, teacher of the Sunday School class, and Ray Price, Superintendent of the Sunday School. Honorary members for the trip were Diane Kretzschmar and Jean Vincent because of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

Recreation last month for the Pilgrim Fellowship Club was a trip to the skating rink. Mountain Grove young people were invited. The trip was chaperoned by Mrs. Gus Kretzschmar and Rev. Annie Campbell. The group was amused when Mrs. Kretzschmar joined the teens in skating.

Jean Vincent, Vice President of the Alabama Pilgrim Fellowship; Diane Kretzschmar, Jr. High Representative for North Alabama; and the pastor and sponsor of the Garden City Pilgrim Fellowship Club, the Rev. Annie Campbell, attended the planning session for Pilgrim Fellowship of the Southeast Convention held at Lanett Church. The Rev. Henry Rust, National Youth Secretary, was the guest leader.

Officers elected for this year for the Garden City P. F. were: Glenda Washburn, President; Diane Kretzschmar, Vice President; Betty Fay Kretzschmar, Secretary; Peggy Seibert, Treasurer; and Iris Kretzschmar, Reporter.

- Iris Kretzschmar

* * *

Acting upon the suggestion of James Price, a national Pilgrim Fellowship executive, the Pleasant Hill P. F. has organized itself into five major committees. They are: Action, Faith, Fellowship, Membership, and Program. Every member of the Pilgrim Fellowship is a member of some committee and has a definite responsibility for that committee's work. This work is done with the help of "The Pilgrim Fellowship Preview" and "Everyday Christian".

The Action Committee, with Frank Little serving as chairman, was in charge of an imitation slave auction at the monthly church supper on October 20. In this auction the PF'ers were bought by various people of the community, to work for them on the Workday for Christ. The sale brought approximately \$45. Last year's sum was \$22. We feel that the slave auction is largely responsible for this increase.

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference was held at Corbin, Ky., on October 9-10. Mary Stewart, who is secretary for the conference; Iris Cole, Norma Moore, Frank Little, and Mary Emma Thompson represented the Pleasant Hill Pilgrim Fellowship at this meeting. It was decided that a reporter was needed for the conference, and Iris Cole was elected. Others attending from the Pleasant Hill Church were Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds, Mrs. T. L. Cunningham, who is an officer in the conference, and Blaine Scarbrough.

Marjorie Wightman, reporter

The Seman Congregational Christian Church held its quarterly business session on the evening of Oct. 9. The church has now voted to have two services monthly. Rev. Otto Culpepper is the pastor.

It was discussed and approved that we buy new wire and add more lights to our church. This project is being done by our Sunday School. The Sunday School has really been busy for the last three years. They sent flowers to members who were ill, food to a family where there was a death, and sponsored several suppers.

Since we have a Training Union for our young people each Sunday night, organized last July, we have had a weiner roast which was enjoyed by all. This group is to fix a church sign as their project, starting right away to make it themselves. We have three groups - the Seniors with Mrs. Jessie Cannon as leader, the Juniors with Mrs. Janey Martin as leader, and the Beginners with Mrs. Otis Stearns as leader.

The Rev. Culpepper was called and accepted for another year. We are very proud to be on half-time now, and that our church made its contribution to Our Christian World Mission.

We are still having our Saturday night sings and really feel they are a blessing to all.

Our church was represented at the Central Association meeting by six delegates, all of whom reported they enjoyed the meeting and were especially thrilled to hear Dr. Sidney M. Berry of London, England.

A church reporter was elected last Saturday, so here comes the Seman Church news!

Mrs. Fannie Mae Brown, Reporter

* * *

The Mountain Creek Union Church continues to make progress since going on half-time service, with Rev. Otto Culpepper as pastor.

A Bible Class has been organized for the young people on Sunday nights; also for the adults and Juniors. Everyone seems to be taking great interest in these meetings.

Plans are being made for the improvement of the church in the near future.

Mt. Creek Reporter

* * *

The Hunt Memorial Church observed Children's Day during the summer in connection with promotion day in the Sunday School. The program was conducted by the children - Intermediates, Juniors, and Seniors - and was splendid.

Those taking part were: Gloria Corley, pianist;

Have you read

**"YOU'RE UNDERPAYING
YOUR PASTOR!"**

On Page 61 of the October CORONET?

Kathleen Worley, song leader; Sherry Pemberton, soloist; Welcome address by Jerry Pemberton; Responsive reading led by Emma Lee Patten; Duet by Barbara Blair and Dora Pemberton; Solo by Jackie Patton; Ushers Gleen and Earl Wilson; Dedication by Joyce Pemberton; and the sermon message by Gloria Blair. The Juniors led a sentence prayer and were dismissed by Shirley Blair. We are proud of our children and the part they take in the church.

Mrs. James Cumbee, Reporter

* * *

Layman's Sunday was a great success at the East Tallassee Church. Laymen were in charge of all the Sunday School classes, and a layman brought the morning message. Floyd Carmack, in beginning his sermon, remarked that he was to be married at four that afternoon and had a perfect right to be nervous.

The Laymen's Fellowship, under the leadership of Felix Logan, President, has doubled its membership in less than a year. Their latest project is to become members of the Church Builders' Club.

The Women's Fellowship held its regular meeting Oct. 11, with Mrs. Marrell Rhodes presiding. Roll Call was answered with an interesting fact about India. Our fellowship voted to sponsor a club that will furnish entertainment for the aged, and this will be called the Sixty-Five Plus Club. As soon as the details are completed, the public will be invited to help in this community project.

The Missionary Education Committee, with Mrs. Barbara Burton chairman, was in charge of the program. Jack Webster gave a most interesting talk of his three years in India. Mrs. Herbert Long led the group in singing, "We've a Story To Tell To the Nations". Mrs. Gene Schnell read the Scripture. The program was brought to a close with prayer by Mrs. Dewitt Cullers.

Members of the East Tallassee Church have shown their willingness and ability to work and lead, not only in their own church, but in the community as well. Below, L to R: Floyd Ballard, Commander of the American Legion of Tallassee; Mrs. Lorelei Ballard, President of United Council



of Church Women of Tallassee; Barbara Fralic, Junior Representative of the Pilgrim Fellowship of Central Association; Felix Logan, President of Tallassee Lions Club; Mrs. Miriam Fralic, President of Alabama Women's Fellowship; Rev. Herbert Long, Vice President of the Greater Tallassee Ministerial Alliance; Mrs. Ruby Scroggins, Treasurer of the Federation of Garden Club of Tallassee; and Mrs. Jettie Logan, Moderator of the Central Association. All these people also hold responsible positions in the church. We think this is quite a record for a small church of 72 members.

Mrs. Charles Messer, Reporter

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The Rev. M. O. Worley of the Hunt Church of Alexander City, has resigned, effective Nov. 28.

The laymen have finished repainting the interior of the church and the pews.

Delegates attending the East Association at Pleasant Grove Church were Mrs. N. B. Riley, Mrs. James Cumbee and Mrs. Lynn Blair.

Gloria Blair, Reporter

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Laymen's Sunday was observed at the Shawmut Todd Church, and Mack McCullars, one of our laymen, was the speaker.

We were very happy when the Association issued a special license to the Rev. E. S. Fetner, our pastor. A program was held on the afternoon of Oct. 17 for this purpose.

Recently the Pilgrim Fellowship put on a Talent Show and sold candy, pop corn and cokes, clearing around \$90 to help pay for the piano. On Sunday night, Oct. 10 each member of the PF was auctioned off to the highest bidder to do a day's work, for Work Day for Christ. They made \$12 on this project. New leaders for the PF are Mr. and Mrs. Mack McCullars.

On Oct. 11, Herman Cook of Lanett was the speaker for the regular Laymen's Fellowship meeting.

Delegates attending the East Association were Mrs. Manning Yates, Mrs. Howard Strength, J. W. Burson; and visitors were Mrs. J. W. Burson, Mrs. Fulton Smith and D. I. Irvin. Attending Wednesday night only were Mr. and Mrs. Mack McCullars, Mr. and Mrs. George Hammock, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Frost, Mrs. Tommie Gray, Miss Peggy and Patricia Hammock, Terrell Stevens, and Perry Snider.

Mrs. Howard Strength, reporter

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It is true of the people of Lafayette Pleasant Grove Church, as well as of many others, that we do the things we want to do. We have proven that fact to ourselves many times in the past two years.

One of our most recent achievements, of which we are exceedingly proud, is our newly organized Bible Study Class. In August the Rev. Charles Bell, pastor, put his shoulder to the wheel and urged us to organize. A date was set and the study class was organized with the following officers: President, Dewey Baily; Vice President, L. L. Knight; Secretary - Treasurer, Mrs. Carolyn Tomlinson. At this meeting we decided to start our study from the New Testament. Our first lesson

was to be given by the Rev. Bell from the first four chapters of Matthew. The ball had started rolling and for three months has rolled very successfully.

Now the class meets every first and third Sunday evening, an hour before our regular Sunday evening services. "An hour early! Why it is all I can do to get to services on time!" many of us said. When we had attended a few times, we were more anxious to get to church and the hour early made no difference. Many church families are actively participating in this new undertaking and a fine spirit prevails. A new leader for each discussion is chosen and the Scripture is explained and discussed by the group.

We feel we have grown many ways - materially speaking - but we also realize that spiritual growth is more important and we feel that this organization is a great step forward in that direction. Our evening church attendance has about doubled and we welcome many visitors from time to time.

It was also an inspiration to Pleasant Grove to have the East Association meet with us. We feel closer drawn to Christ by having so many of God's laborers visit our church. We now realize that the more closely we are united in our work for the Kingdom of Heaven, the more we will be able to accomplish for His Kingdom here on earth. For our untiring efforts we are sure to receive "showers of blessings".

Mrs. Emory Allen, reporter

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The Lanett Church has closed this year with total expenditures of \$27,591. Forty-nine new members were admitted and nineteen removed, leaving our present membership at 391.

A most successful annual business meeting was held on Oct. 3. This was the first attempt at a Sunday business meeting. Immediately following worship and Communion we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. The Rev. French had spent much time in preparing one year's work in pictures and figures. The annual reports were presented quickly and most effectively to a large crowd. Certainly we have never had so many for Saturday business meetings; neither can we recall a business meeting which was so much enjoyed.

On Oct. 3 Miss Carol Sims was presented a beautiful white Bible for perfect attendance in Sunday School. The presentation was made during Sunday School by her teacher, V. R. Dodson. She also received an attendance pin from the new S. S. Superintendent, S. W. Seymour. Phil Harry received a pin for being absent only one Sunday; Mrs. Reid Kent and A. D. Harry for being absent only two Sundays.

S. W. Seymour, succeeds his brother, J. J. Seymour, who faithfully served as Superintendent for a number of years. Both men are very active in Laymen's Fellowship and other church activities. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Mr. "Woodie", as we call him, has introduced a rather unique plan for increased attendance. It is called the Century Club. He appointed 10 captains as leaders, furnished them with membership cards which contain a pledge to enroll one new member in Sunday School each month this church year. Each of the appointed ten will en-

roll ten, if possible. Hence - Century Club. Already attendance and interest is increasing.

Our Nursery and Kindergarten were in need of suitable toys. These were supplied by a "toy shower" at the recent meeting of the Missionary Auxiliary.

We are happy to report the organization of another circle, which has been named Ruth Circle and is composed of college age and very young married women. Mrs. V. R. Dobson is leader and Mrs. Bobby Oliver is President. This makes seven circles in our auxiliary.

James Price of California was a welcome visitor to a youth work meeting in our church Sept. 26. Jim, who has given a year of his services to travel and work with groups in the interest of Pilgrim Fellowship, is doing a fine work. We feel that we were greatly benefitted by his evening with us.

National Laymen's Sunday was observed Oct. 17. Herman Cook led the service of worship with Willie McGill as pianist and Render Fuller leading the singing. Melbourne Penn, Marvin Hodge and A. D. Harry also had parts in the service. W. C. Edge of Lafayette brought the morning message which was inspiring. The singing sounded wonderful with the choir full of men.

A meeting of the Southeast Convention Planning Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work was held here on Oct. 18-19. It was a special treat to hear Henry R. Rust, our national secretary of youth work at these meetings. The Southeast Convention will really grow and glow as a result of such earnest endeavors. We were happy to have had a share in making the meeting pleasant, profitable and less expensive to the officers and leaders by entertaining them overnight in our homes and by furnishing lunch and supper at the church.

Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

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The Buford, Duncan's Creek Church has recently elected new officers, as follows: A. B. Burel, Secretary and Treasurer; Scott Maddox, S. S. Superintendent; Mrs. Grace B. Puckett, pianist; Mrs. A. B. Burel, President Ladies Auxiliary; Scott Maddox, Moderator of Parish; and Mrs. Grace B. Puckett, Scribe.

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The Chipley, Oak Grove Church has called the Rev. Henry Weaver as pastor. Mr. Weaver has been supplying the church for the past two months.

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The Women's Guild of the Demorest Federated Church held its annual New England supper at the Percy home in October. There was good attendance and a pleasant social time. Mrs. Sutherland of Claremont, California gave an interesting talk.

The Guild sent \$35 to help buy netting for Rydor Memorial Hospital and voted to send \$10 toward helping Church World Service send surplus government food where needed overseas.

We are looking forward to having Mrs. Erston M. Butterfield, wife of the Superintendent, give her book review on "God and Man in the City" at our November meeting.

Our Layman's Sunday speaker was Robt. Jones, a Junior in High School. He gave a very good talk on "Decisions I Have Made".

Our pastor, the Rev. George Chambers, has started a Bible Study Class which meets at the church each Wednesday evening. We are now studying the book of Genesis.

Mrs. Loice Adams and Miss Alice Leech were delegates to the Georgia - South Carolina Conference at Barnesville and report a good meeting and an interesting time.

Mrs. E. W. Butler, reporter

Christ Needs Men

Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers ... casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen; and he said unto them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men, and they straightway left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-20)

When Christ needs men for important positions He always seeks in the ranks of busy people among men who are at their posts and are faithfully doing their duty. When the Lord wanted a man to be the leader of His people, He found Moses tending sheep in the wilderness. When He sought for a man to be King of Israel, He found a shepherd lad watching over his flock. When He wanted a man for prophet, He found Elisha at his plough. When Jesus needed men to become Apostles to lay the foundation of the Christian Church, He walked by the sea and found them among those

who were busy. He must have men of activity, energy and earnestness.

Christ is today seeking men to follow Him. There are great tasks to be accomplished, evils to be overcome, souls to be saved and lives prepared for abundant living. Christ wants Every Man. He will sustain them in all they attempt to do together in the church.

Today Christ is seeking men to rise up to serve Him.

South Georgia District PF

The Vanceville Church Pilgrim Fellowship was host to the Tifton PF and the Douglas young people Sept. 19 at four p. m.

About three months ago the Vanceville group invited the Tifton PF to their church to discuss the organization of a district PF. They decided to meet on each third Sunday as one group to study together and get ideas from other groups. Another goal was to organize a Pilgrim Fellowship in the churches which do not have one.

At the Sept. 19 meeting officers were elected to serve until the group is permanently organized, at which time the majority vote will either confirm the election of the present officers for a year or elect others. Those elected were: President, Ben Cooper; Vice President, Wylene Cooper; Secretary, Rudeen Stephens; Treasurer, Willene Cooper; and Reporter, Denson Wood.

The group was entertained by Misses Willene and Wylene Cooper, refreshment committee of the Vanceville PF.

Denson Wood, reporter



When Day Is Done

I am sitting at a window that faces the west. The sun has just disappeared behind the tall hills, and the flaming colors are beginning to fade to pale blue. The silent trees are darkly outlined against the clear sky, and the crickets are chanting their drowsy evening song from the grass. A gray squirrel nimbly leaps from limb to limb in the trees, while a late bird wheels away toward the south on swift wings.

There is something fascinating about sunsets. Each one is different; each one is beautiful; each makes a magnificent climax to the bustle and activity of the day. Soon after the gorgeous colors fade into twilight, the whole world sinks to rest. Friendly lights are turned on in rambling old homes beside country lanes and in palatial residences above city streets. Birds seek their nests, children are tucked away in their soft beds for the night, and the little wild things of the forest curl up in their secret places of rest.

If we fill our days with rich living, we will have many precious sunsets, and if we have the right attitude toward life, we will always be surrounded by friends who will save us from loneliness.

THE MIDWAY FAITH

(From page 2)

of the Rockies, on the white sands of the Pacific. Yet I submit to you that no church in our fellowship, yes even that on the Mayflower herself, had such a record as Midway's. The Congregational tragedy in the South is that we have not become her heirs. The heirs have too often worn the label of Presbyterian, Baptist or Methodist.

The "Pilgrim Faith", great as has been its service to the nation and its strength in the North, has had great difficulty in crossing the Ohio River. Congregational Christian Churches will not grow as branch offices of New York, Boston or Chicago. They must be of the South, in the tradition of the "Midway Faith".

Can we be guided to greatness in our day in keeping with this "Midway Faith"? Let me suggest some specific actions which I feel would lead us in this direction.

First, we must meet squarely the challenge of autonomy, the exciting endeavor in which we are now engaged. The first step to any over-all growth and response to the greatness of our section is to take our steps ourselves. Too long we have been riding the coat-tails of merciful New England philanthropy. Consequently, too long we have been told by those who aid us what is best for us in the South. The time has come to stand on our own feet. We have the numbers; we have the resources to do this. If we all would give the suggested goal of 10 cents a week to our Christian World Mission, we could pay our own bills and send nearly \$20,000 to foreign and home missions.

Secondly, we must build. Already we have met our Church Building Loan Fund quota. Now we must buttress our own Church Builders' Club. Perhaps this is the most exciting idea of church extension to come from the grass roots of our whole denomination.

Then, we must meet with prayer and Christian concern the problems of our section, especially the presently supercharged problem of race. This should be done by us, may I suggest, not in the "Pilgrim Spirit", but with the "Midway Faith".

Personally, I think we should this year take our unequivocal position in support of what I believe to be the Christian position on race—a position the Supreme Court merely reminded us of last May 7—that we are sons of one father and brothers in Christ. To me the Christian answer is unquestionable.

But I am a mere individual. I am only your Moderator. We are a Congregational, not a Methodist, body. Furthermore, my background is different from that of most of you here. I am a son of the Pilgrim Faith, descended from Vermont and Kansas, and from ancestors who felt the gallows of John Brown nearly as sacred as the Cross of Jesus Christ.

In the spirit of the Midway Faith, however, we can, whatever our backgrounds and beliefs, work out these problems with which we are confronted. Perhaps we too can rise to greatness in our day if we approach our problems with humility rather than pride, with soul-searching rather than fault-finding, making the decisions ourselves in prayer and with fear and trembling.

"Father, search me and know me, and see if there be any wicked way in me."

So, here we stand. The challenge of our day demands the best of us all. The example and the faith we can find in our tradition. Let us, then, with prayerfulness and humility, but with confidence in ourselves, stride to meet today's challenge armed with the "Midway Faith".

(Keynote address given at Georgia-South Carolina Conference Meeting October 12-13 and printed by request of the Conference.

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Southern Union Notes

Southern Union College is enjoying wrestling with the problems raised by a 40% increase in student enrollment this Fall.

The more troublesome inconvenience of insufficient seating and housing have been solved for the present. Any further expansion in boarding students, however, will make even more imperative the new dormitory for which the College is hoping and planning.

The continuing and increased support being received from both the local area and the wider Fellowship has aided enormously in meeting the immediate needs this Fall. President Flannery found a cordial response from churches in the Mid-West where he spoke in October. He is now in New England on behalf of the College. He will return to the campus just before Thanksgiving.

The College is continuing its weekly radio program, The Southern Union Hour, over Roanoke's station WELR - 1360 on the radio dial. The program is at 1:45 p. m. CST every Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Robert Yoh is in charge of these programs this year and the College has received many appreciative commendations on them. Mr. Yoh is College Chaplain and teaches in the English and Religion Departments.

Pre-enrollment has already begun for the Winter Quarter, which will open on December 13.

In November the College was glad to be host to a School of Churchmanship for laymen on Nov. 7. The Convention-wide Ministerial Convocation and study course will be held Nov. 29 - Dec. 3.

David Eddy, Treasurer

Sharing multiplies joy.